

Missouri Board of Geologist Registration

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Governor

The Honorable Mel Carnahan

Department of Economic Development

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MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This is an official publication of the Division of Professional Registration. Submit articles to: Missouri Board of Geologist Registration, P.O. Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Comments from the Chair



As most of you are aware, the Missouri Board of Geologist Registration (MBGR) has been making the transition from a new board responsible for establishing rules and administering grandfather registrations to a more established board charged with the enforcement and administration of the Geologist Registration Act. As we make the transition, new questions and situations are brought to the Board for answers and action, that the Board must act upon within the framework of our statutory

authority. Let me take this opportunity to explain what that statutory authority is and how the board is charged with its administration.

Primarily, according to statute section 256.459, RSMo. 1999, the MBGR was established to "administer the provisions of section RSMo 256.450 to 256.483". That means that the MBGR was established to register geologists who perform geologic work affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Missouri.

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Unfortunately, this sometimes places the board at odds with the members of the geologic profession. But as one of our distinguished members so aptly and succinctly put it; *"the Missouri Geology Board, or any geology licensing board for that matter, are not created to be a watchdog or advocate for the profession of geology. Rather, they are created to police the profession and guard the general public from those individuals who, through negligence or incompetence, should not be practicing geology."*

In our capacity of administering the Geologist Registration Act, the Board has the authority to act upon complaints regarding violations of the statutes and/or rules that govern the practice of geology. The Board will investigate complaints to determine if the person(s) and/or firm(s) are in violation of the statutes or rules. If members determine that there is sufficient evidence of a violation, complaint is referred to the independent Administrative Hearing Commission. The Commission holds a hearing with representatives from the Board and the person(s) and/or firm(s) to determine whether the Board was correct in its assessment. If upheld, the Board conducts a hearing to determine the disciplinary action, which ranges from suspension, revocation, in addition to refusal to issue or renewal of license. What the board can not do, is provide answers to hypothetical questions or situations as they relate to "possible" violations of the statute or rules.

I would strongly encourage anyone who is a Missouri Registered Geologist and is aware of a situation that they feel constitutes a violation of statute sections 256.450 to 256.483 or 4 CSR 145-2.010 through 4.040, make a formal complaint to the MBGR and let us investigate the situation within the scope of our authority. Investigating factual complaints is the best way the board can insure that the geologic community and the state of Missouri are protected from negligent or improper practice of geology and also be confident of the precedence that the board is establishing.

Another area that the MBGR is charged with administering is a Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Geologists of Missouri. 4 CSR 145-4.010 through 4.040 defines a professional code of conduct for those persons registered, by the MBGR, to practice geology in Missouri. This is not unique to Missouri. As more and more states begin to require licensure of geologists, those same states are adopting codes of professional conduct or codes of ethics to be followed by their licensees. A recent study by the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) demonstrated that those states without ethical standards would likely be adopting them in the near future.

The area of professional conduct and ethics is where I see the MBGR and the geologic profession will be able to work together in the advancement of the profession. Members of the professional community are very well informed regarding the day to day business practices of their colleagues and competition. If you as a registered geologist feel that another licensee has violated the code of professional conduct, you can register a complaint with the MBGR under the professional conduct rules. In the short term, making a complaint to the Board about a geologist's unethical practice may seem extreme. But remember, in today's marketplace, where geologic professionals are highly mobile and transient, you may soon find yourself working with or for that same individual or firm. Policing from within is the only way to maintain a credible and viable profession.

Finally, I would encourage each of you to take an active role in your chosen profession of geology. Join one of the many professional organizations fostering the geologic community in Missouri. As I have bluntly told many of my friends and colleagues in the past, "If you do not vote, then you have no right to complain about our political process." The same can be said for participation in the professional geologic community.

Sincerely,



John T. Howard, RG
Chairperson, Board of Geologist Registration

Executive Director's Notes



Desmond Peters

Every facet of the Board has undergone a great deal of transition since it was established. I have seen a fair amount in my one and one half years as administrator. Regardless of the administrative transitions during those past few years, the Board and staff realize our need to share information. "What does the Board actually do?" has been addressed to our office more frequently than any other question. With that in mind, one of the positive changes that we have made is in our efforts to keep the body of registrants and other interested parties informed of Board activities and deliberations.

In 1998, we had not published a newsletter for some time, received little correspondence from anyone other than a few applicants and rarely expected any visitors to attend the meetings. Now you are reading the spring 2000 newsletter, the second newsletter in half a year. We have a good number of inquiries about a wide-range of issues from licensees, applicants and laypersons. And while attendance has not compared to either the last few Rams' post-season games or summer field camp in Utah, we have had several visitors who brought relevant comments.

Feel free to contact our office with any questions about the registration process, the ASBOG examination, or upcoming Board meetings. Visit our website at www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/geo, or send an e-mail to geo@mail.state.mo.us. As John Howard pointed out in his letter, the Board is limited in the responses that it can give to vaguely written, hypothetical practice questions. Keep in mind that the Board has few ways to be made aware of questionable situations or practices. If you do not alert us to questionable situations or practices, with specific details (names, dates, etc.), there is a great chance that no one else will.

New Member Profiles



Paul W. Foster, D.C. is the new Public Member on the Board. After attaining his degree from Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City, he opened the Foster Chiropractic Center in Chillicothe in 1958. The following year, Dr. Foster moved the business to Liberty, where it remains today. In addition to actively participating in the Missouri State Chiropractic Association (MSCA) for a great number of years, Dr. Foster has served on the Missouri State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, serving as Secretary for a term. He brings a wealth of regulatory experience. He is presently serving one of many terms on the MSCA Board of Directors, as well as serving on the Geology Board.



Thomas I. Watkins, RG & CM, represents the mineral resources branch of geologic practice on the Board. He was employed by Bethlehem Mines, in various capacities, after completing his Bachelor's in Geology in May 1975 at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. While with Bethlehem, Tom also pursued post-graduate studies in Geophysics at Lehigh University. After a few years as a Mine Engineer at the K & J Coal Company, Inc. in Westover, PA, Mr. Watkins spent four years with Skelly & Loy Consultants in Harrisburg, PA and four years with North American Coal in the Falkirk Mine, North Dakota. As Chief Mine Engineer for eleven years at the Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Thomas Hill Energy Center, in north central MO, he was a driving force behind its highly successful reclamation plan. Mr. Watkins presently is the Plant Manager for the Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s New Madrid Power Plant.



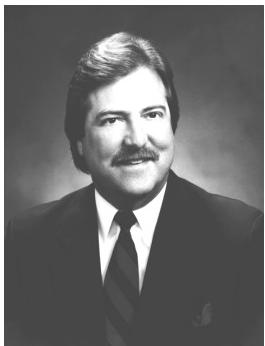
Board Member Changes

Two members will be replaced after their terms have expired in April. Lem Hutton, Jr., RG, has served on the Board since April 1995. He held two consecutive terms as Chairperson, in addition to two consecutive terms as Vice Chairperson. As Chairperson, he took great initiative to work closely with Division staff to maintain focus during the period of great transition. Mr. Hutton's term expires on April 11th.

Connie Johnson, public member, served on the Board from February 1999. She was elected Secretary in May and will not be seeking reappointment in April. Ms. Johnson's term expires April 1st.

The Division, Board members and staff wish Lem and Connie great success in their future endeavors. By the time that our May meeting rolls around, we should have two new members appointed to replace them. We will share the profiles for the new members on the website and in the next newsletter.

Message from the Division Director



Our new licensing system (PROMO) continues to dominate our lives. Besides the daily conference calls between our Information Technology folks and IFMC, a team from the Division and myself flew to Iowa for marathon meetings. Following the meetings in Iowa, the IFMC folks flew to Jefferson City. Slowly but surely, the problematic symptoms of a new system are being identified and addressed.

Reminder: With the new system, PROMO, a license number will be the year of license followed by a 6-digit number. Example: 1999134178. This is a Division-wide numbering system and will allow the Division to capture valuable licensing information on a Division-wide scale. Licenses issued prior to September 16, 1999 will still maintain their previous 4 to 6-digit number.

At the same time, we are not letting up on our program for optical imaging. We are pressing forward full speed to ensure our licensing system interfaces compatibly with our optical imaging system. Plus there are other teams meeting frequently to pursue on-line applications, renewals and license verifications.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Singer".

Randall Singer
Division Director

Renewals

We are now well into our present renewal cycle. Staff sent the applications for the 2000-2001 renewal period at the beginning of February. If you have not received an application by now, please contact our office. The renewal period will end on April 30th. If you return your application post-marked after that date, we will return the form, requesting that you resubmit with the appropriate late fee as noted on the application.

There have been a few changes with the renewal process and certificates, as a result of our new licensure system. The renewal applications have been reformatted and bar-coded for more rapid processing. The new certificates will feature the credentials, RG, behind the registrant's name. We require you to respond to a few questions. Please read the instructions thoroughly, ensuring that you have actually completed all sections of the application. Mental lapses or concentration errors are the principle reasons that we return renewal applications. Furthermore, the only contact information that we have is what you have given us in the past. If you have moved, give us your new address, including email.

Persons whose registrations expired in 1998, you will be able to submit renewal applications to become current up to April 30th. You will need to contact our office to receive the appropriate applications and submit the 1999 late fee, along with the 2000 renewal fee. If any of these registrants miss the April 30th deadline, you will need to reapply for registration by completing the entire application process.

Registration Statistics

As the Board reviews various topics and deliberates on specific issues, it refers to statistics relating to the total registrations issued, current registrations, registrant demographics, as well as several other areas. The following figures demonstrate the numbers of registrations issued, method of registration, location of registrants and the status changes. The figures from FY 2000, combined with current data, will help us to determine crucial baseline data, which in turn will be beneficial for any future deliberations for Board actions.

Total RG licenses issued 1016

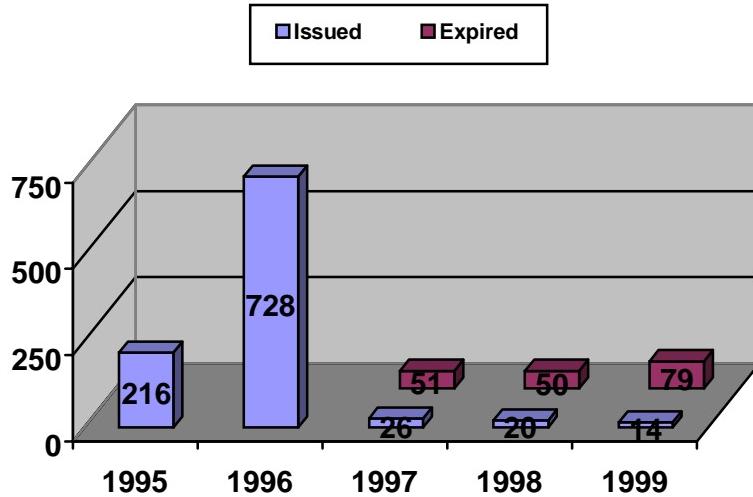
Grandfathered 956;
Education, Experience, Exam 60.

License status

Currently active: RG 836 (782 grandfathered; 93.5%);
GRIT 8 (not included in other figures).

Expired 180 (175 grandfathered; 97.2%);
Voluntarily surrendered 6 (5 grandfathered);
Deceased 3 (grandfathered).

Registrations Issued and Expired by Year

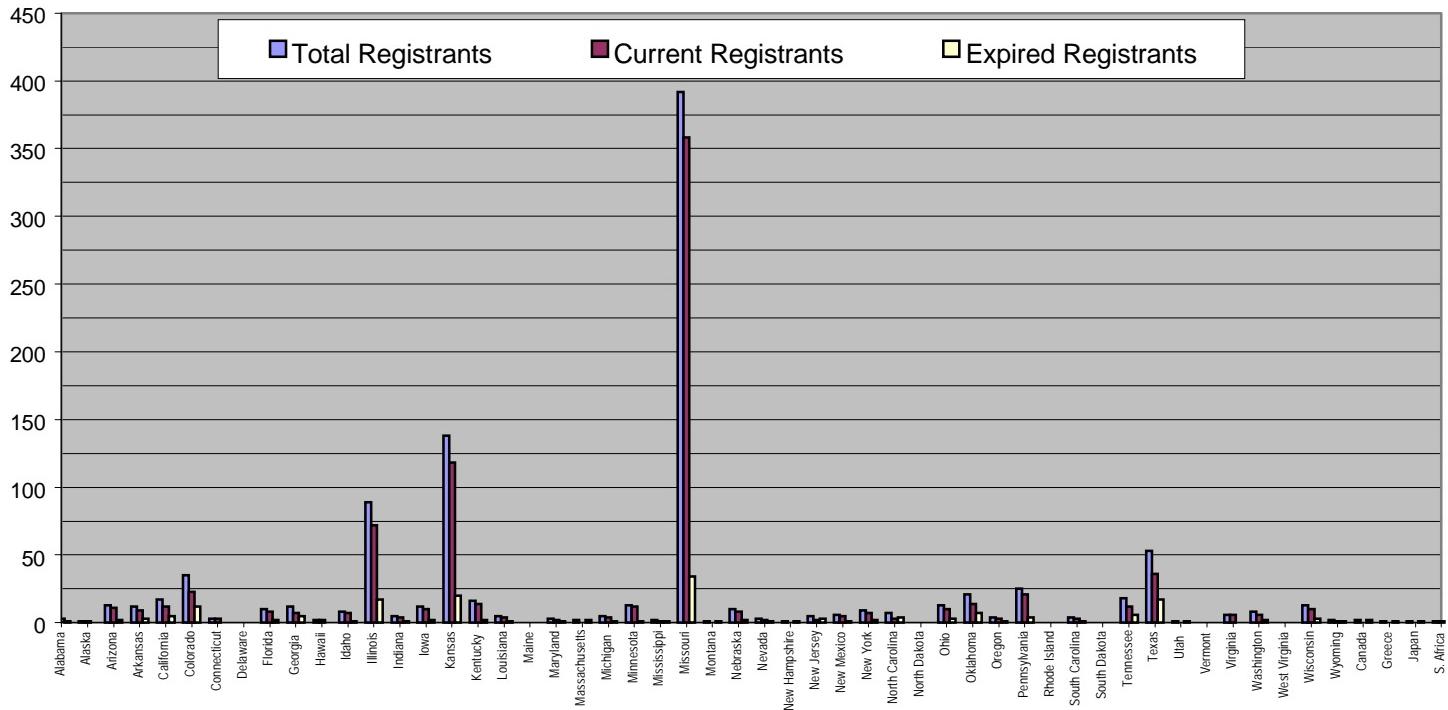


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Registrant Statistics Continued

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Missouri Registrants by State (Total, Current and Expired)



Note: The states are listed in alphabetical order, with Canada, Greece, Japan and South Africa included at the end of the chart.

New Registration Numbers and Seal

All registrations issued after September 16, 1999 have a ten-digit registration number, the first four digits being the year of original issuance. Those who were registered before that point will retain their registration numbers.

The general requirements for seal design will remain the same, as outlined in state regulation 4 CSR-2.100(1):

Each registered geologist shall, at his/her own expense, secure a seal or rubber stamp, one and three-quarters inches (1 3/4") in diameter. The seal or stamp shall consist of concentric circles between which shall appear in capital letters "STATE OF MISSOURI" on the upper part of the seal, and "REGISTERED GEOLOGIST" on the lower part of the seal. Within the inner circle of the seal shall appear the name of the registered geologist in printed letters and his/her certificate number preceded by the capital letters "RG".

However, the ten-digit number dictates a minor alteration. Please refer to the following example when ordering a seal for the ten-digit registration number:



ASBOG Examination

The spring administration was on Friday March 17th. We will be posting our candidates results on our website, in addition to the national performance, as soon as we receive them in May. During the February 18th meeting, the Board voted to send an invitation to academic program chairpersons, inviting them, or colleagues, to participate in the Spring 2000 ASBOG Examination Workshop, a crucial meeting in the development and grading of the examination.

The Board has also initiated a program to inform prospective graduates of the process to become a Registered Geologist, as well as the examination registration process. The Executive Director and several Board members have visited many schools across the state and made presentations on both processes. So far, we have gotten positive feedback from students, staff and faculty. We will continue to make these presentations during the current academic year. If you would like to have one of these presentations on your campus, please send an email, or written request to our office.

STUDY COURSES AND MATERIALS – We have received many inquiries for study courses and/or materials for examination preparation, from both students and those who have graduated in previous years. Although we are prevented from releasing specific information about the examination itself, we have found information on professionals who have developed study courses and materials for the ASBOG examination.

If you have students, supervisees or know colleagues who will be preparing to take the ASBOG Examination, please pass on this basic contact information. If you know of other courses or materials, feel free to send us that contact information.

NOTE: The following information is summarized from known homepages, however this list may not include all examination review sources. The Missouri Board of Geologist Registration does not endorse any of the programs, does not receive any compensation from the programs, nor does it guarantee that course participants will receive a passing score on the ASBOG examination.

REG REVIEW, Inc.

37 Rosewell Road

Bedford, NH 03110

Telephone: [603] 472-3050
[650] 947-8899

Fax: [603] 471-1969

E-mail: rgreviewca@aol.com

www.hometown.aol.com/rgreviewca

REG REVIEW, Inc. has provided study courses and materials for the California licensing examinations for 14 years and has recently developed a course for the ASBOG Examination. The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) has hired REG REVIEW, Inc. to conduct review courses for the Geology Registration, and Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology Certification exams. The pilot program is tentatively scheduled for a location in Missouri for the September 2000 examination.

KENTUCKY WORKSHOP FOR THE ASBOG PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST EXAMINATION

William 'Drew' Andrews, Ky. PG #2262 (by exam)

Kentucky Geological Survey

Telephone: [606] 257-5500

Fax: [606] 257-1147

E-mail: wandrews@kgs.mm.uky.edu

www.kspg.org/pages/training.html#asbog.org

This workshop is intended to serve as an overview of the ASBOG Professional Geologist examination. It will provide a thorough overview of the structure and development of the ASBOG exam, provide a review of selected geological topics, and offer review suggestions and strategies for other topics not covered in detail. Due to time constraints, this workshop will not be a comprehensive topical review of material that may be covered on the exam. Initiated by Kentucky Society of Professional Geologist (KSPG) and Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS).

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ASBOG Examination Continued

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REVIEW OF GEOLOGY FOR THE PRACTICING GEOLOGIST AND THE PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST EXAMINATION

Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists

PG Review Course

Suite 300, 717 North Second Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102-3211

E-mail: jeffries@success.net

www.pcpg.org/pcpg_training-1.html

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) has compiled a panel of experts to provide a focused review of the subjects most strongly emphasized on the ASBOG examinations and those most applicable in practice of the science. Many of the instructors for this program are both practicing professionals and university level lecturers.

FLORIDA SHORT COURSES

Florida Short Courses (Drs. Gary McClellan, PG, and Gary Smith, PG)

401 NW 26th Street

Gainesville, FL 32607

Telephone: [352] 377-9567

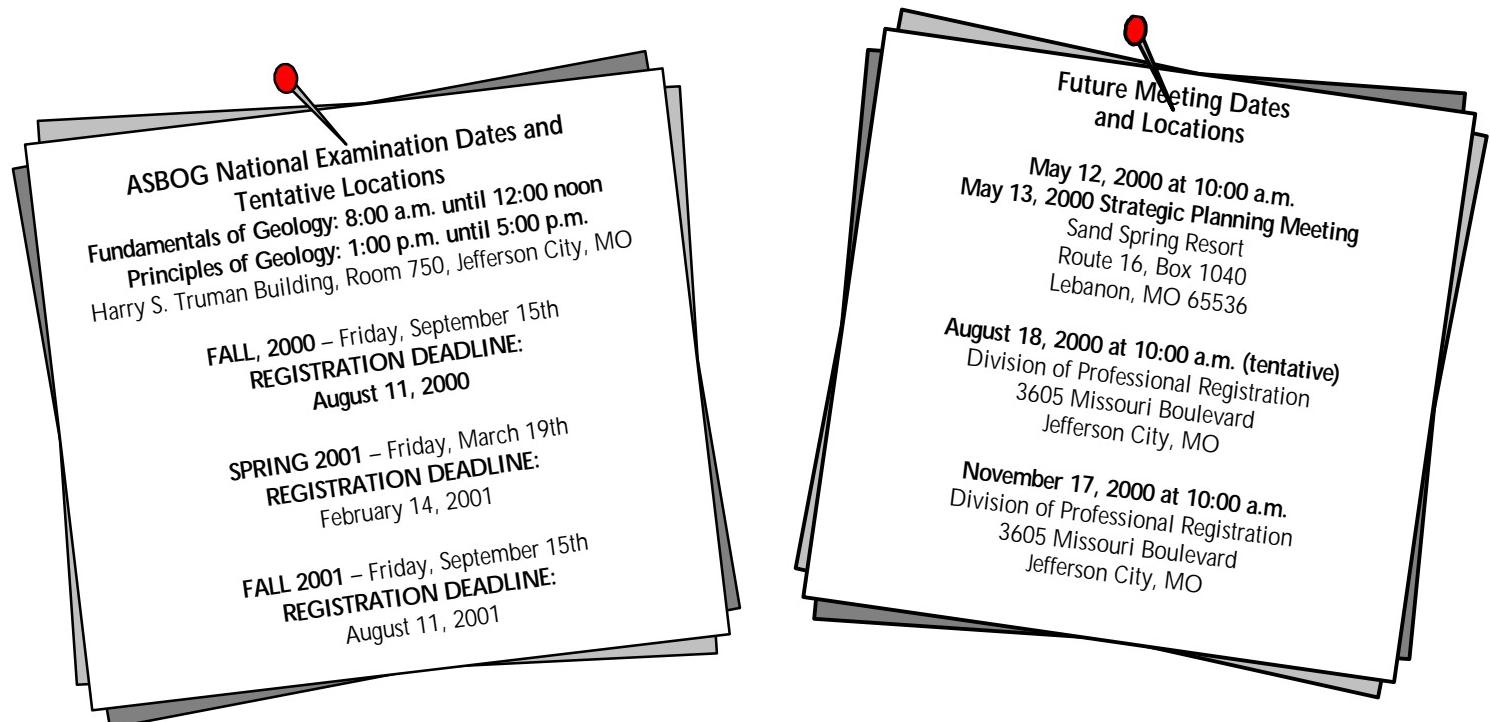
E-mail: geogator@netscape.net

www.geocities.com/Athens/Sparta/7110/index.html

ASBOG Review

After five years of presenting professional geology preparation courses, Florida Short Courses (FSC) offers an ASBOG REVIEW course. This course will present 15 hours of class room instruction, and three practice exams in ASBOG format covering the main topics listed on the ASBOG homepage (www.ASBOG.org).

Meeting/Examination Dates



Conference Calls will be scheduled and announced according to need.

Association Contact Information

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS (AIPG)

7828 Vance Drive, #103
 Arvada, CO 80003-2125
 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM MDT; M-F
 Telephone: [303]-431-0831
 Fax: [303]-431-1332
<http://www.aipg.org/AIPGScripts/Index.cfm>
 E-mail: aipg@aipg.org

Missouri Section

Timothy L. Kent, PG, President
 Telephone: [417]-624-5703 (work)
 Fax: [417]-624-7558

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS (AEG)

Department of Geology & Geophysics
 Texas A&M University MS-3115
 College Station, TX 77843-3115
 Telephone: [409] 845-0142
 Fax: [409] 862-7959
<http://aegweb.org>

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 psanti@umr.edu
<http://www.umr.edu/~aeg/aegstl.html>

KC/Omaha Section

Kristina Blevins-McCosh
 Telephone: [913] 422-1620 (work)
 [913] 469-1649 (home)

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 E-mail: dnrmail.nrkastg@lms.state.mo.us

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P.O. Box 250
 Rolla, MO 65401-0250
 Telephone: [573] 368-2125
 Fax: [573] 368-2111
<http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/dglis/homedglis.htm>
 Email: dglspubs@mail.dnr.state.mo.us

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF GEOLOGY (ASBOG)

PO Box 11591
 Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1591
 Telephone: [803] 799-1047
 Fax: [803] 252-3432
<http://www.geosun1.sjsu.edu/asbog/index.htm>
 Email: asbog@asbog.org

SOCIETY FOR MINING, METALLURGY AND EXPLORATION

8307 Shaffer Parkway
 Littleton, Colorado 80127
 Telephone: 800-763-3132
 303-973-9550
 Fax: 303-973-3845
<http://www.smenet.org/>
 E-mail: sme@sment.org



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Jefferson City, MO 65101

Have You Moved Recently?

Board rules require all licensees notify the Board of all such changes by sending a letter to the board's office in Jefferson City, Missouri, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the change. Please include a street address to facilitate any express mail deliveries.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

Work Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mail to:

Missouri Board of Geologist Registration
P. O. Box 1335
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1335